

Washington, DC - Last night, the Environmental Protection Agency announced to the former Kelly AFB Restoration Advisory Board that they are scheduled to conduct a soil vapor intrusion study in a neighborhood next to the former Air Force Base in San Antonio. The EPA is launching the study to address public concerns about the air quality in the area.

The EPA has scheduled its two part study to begin on May 12, 2008 and will specifically focus on an area neighborhood that has high off base concentrations of ground water pollutants. Their results will allow the EPA to determine the source of any potential air contamination that could be found over the course of the study. The EPA will also use their findings to determine if a pathway exists for potentially discovered contaminants to enter the air that is inhaled by local residents.

The EPA also announced that they would use their Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) buses for a phase of the study. The TAGA is a technologically advanced mobile laboratory that can produce continuous, real-time sampling and analysis of the air it tests.

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20), who called for the investigation in November of 2007, issued the following statement applauding the EPA's announcement:

"I welcome this announcement and applaud the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts on this issue. I'm especially pleased that the EPA granted my request to bring their Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to San Antonio for the purpose of this testing. This unit represents the most advanced technology available for this type of study and San Antonio residents deserve no less. My office will be working with the EPA to identify area residents that will volunteer to have their homes tested and I'm optimistic that together we can move forward in a timely fashion so that the EPA's study can proceed as scheduled."

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